

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 133608

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133608

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TU, GR, CY

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO BITSIOS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

YOU SHOULD DELIVER FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE FROM ME TO FOREIGN
MINISTER BITSIOS:

BEGIN MESSAGE: THE OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY THE NATO MEET-
INGS FOR PRESIDENT FORD AND ME TO SPEAK TO PRIME MINISTER
CARAMANLIS AND YOU IN DEPTH ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE
EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND YOUR PROBLEMS IN GREECE HAS BEEN
IMMEASURABLY HELPFUL. WE NOW UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION IN
A WAY WHICH IS SIMPLY NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE KIND OF
DIRECT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WE HAVE HAD TOGETHER IN BRUSSELS.

I AM ALSO MOST GRATEFUL FOR THE DETAILED BRIEFING YOU
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PAGE 02 STATE 133608

PROVIDED AMBASSADOR KUBISCH, COVERING THE MEETING ON

MAY 31, BETWEEN PRIME MINISTERS CARAMANLIS AND DEMIREL. YOU CAN, I BELIEVE, TAKE SATISFACTION IN THE OUTCOME OF THAT MEETING AND THE KNOWLEDGE THAT GREEK STATESMANSHIP HAS HELPED ENSURE THAT A GREEK-TURKISH DIALOGUE WILL BE

ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED. THE CREATION OF SUBGROUPS TO CONSIDER INDIVIDUAL ISSUES AND THE GENERAL UNDERSTANDING THAT ALL EXISTING PROBLEMS WILL BE SOLVED THROUGH A PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION ARE WELCOME DEVELOPMENTS. I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THE US STANDS READY TO ASSIST THIS PROCESS IN ANY WAY YOU BELIEVE WE CAN BE HELPFUL.

I WAS ALSO ENCOURAGED BY THAT PORTION OF THE MAY 31 COMMUNIQUE WHICH DEALT WITH CYPRUS. THE DECISION OF THE GREEK AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WHICH WERE RESUMED IN VIENNA ON JUNE 5 IS NECESSARY TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS ENDEAVOR, TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES HAS GIVEN ITS FULL SUPPORT. AS I TOLD YOU IN BRUSSELS, WE HAVE ALSO EXPLAINED TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT WHY EARLY PROGRESS ON CYPRUS IS IN THEIR OWN AS WELL AS GENERAL WESTERN INTEREST. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE THIS POINT TO THEM IN THE WEEKS AHEAD, AND TO STRESS THE NEED TO HAVE THE NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA GET DOWN TO THE CRITICAL SUBJECTS OF TERRITORY AND REFUGEES AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THE MORE CONCRETE YOUR OWN PROPOSALS IN THIS AREA CAN BE, THE FASTER IN MY JUDGMENT THE NEGOTIATIONS CAN PROGRESS. AT THE SAME TIME I WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WE ARE UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT A LASTING SETTLEMENT CAN BE ACHIEVED OVERNIGHT. THE WORK IN VIENNA IS BOUND TO BE LONG AND DIFFICULT; THE REQUIREMENT AT THIS STAGE IS TO KEEP THE TALKS GOING IN A COOPERATIVE AND PRODUCTIVE MANNER.

I HAVE TAKEN NOTE OF YOUR COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR KUBISCH REGARDING THE TURKISH ARMS QUESTION. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE LIFTING THE EMBARGO IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR ALLIANCE RELATIONSHIP AND AS A MEANS OF ENCOURAGING FLEXIBILITY ON CYPRUS.

I ALSO WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE US HAS PLAYED NO ROLE
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PAGE 03 STATE 133608

IN BRUSSELS IN CONNECTION WITH MEMBERSHIP ISSUES AS THEY RELATE TO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. OUR RECORD OF SUPPORT FOR THE EEC IS WELL KNOWN. THE QUESTION OF GREECE'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE EEC IS A MATTER BETWEEN GREECE AND THE EEC ITSELF. SUGGESTIONS THAT WE HAVE SPOKEN TO EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS IN AN EFFORT TO IMPEDE OR DISCOURAGE ACCELERATION OF GREEK MEMBERSHIP ARE ENTIRELY FALSE. END MESSAGE. KISSINGER

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